



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON D C 20301

SM-833-83  
18 November 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Staff, US Air Force  
Director, Defense Communications Agency

Subject: Launch Priority of Defense Support Program and  
Defense Satellite Communications System  
Satellites (U)

1. <sup>4</sup> (S) Reference a message\* that requested the Joint Chiefs of Staff to determine the launch priority of the Defense Support Program (DSP) and the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) satellites.
2. <sup>4</sup> (S) The Joint Chiefs of Staff recognize that postponing the launch of the DSCS II and DSCS III satellites from February 1984 to June 1984 will delay the availability of DSCS III support for the Atlantic region. However, the priority requirement is to have a DSP system capable of maximum mission performance to provide early warning of an attack on CONUS. The successful launch of DSP flight 11 will buttress the operational integrity of the DSP constellation, which is jeopardized by the projected May 1984 failure of flight 7 in the Eastern Hemisphere and degradation to flight 9 in the Western Hemisphere.
3. <sup>4</sup> (S) Therefore, the Joint Chiefs of Staff conclude that the most pressing operational need is for a February 1984 launch of the DSP satellite, with a DSCS launch to follow as soon as possible.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

*David O. Swennes*  
DAVID O. SWENNES  
Colonel, USAF  
Secretary

Reference:  
• DCA 2820012 October 1983

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